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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,099	07/16/2001	Kenji Kawazoe	1272.C0468	3548

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EXAMINER

TRAN, LY T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2853

DATE MAILED: 01/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/905,099

Applicant(s)

KAWAZOE ET AL.

Examiner

Ly T TRAN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-4 and 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morishita et al. (JP 361228975) in view of Warabiki et al (JP 411348363).

With respect to claims 1-4 and 8-11, Morishita et al. discloses in combination, a printing apparatus and a print medium and a method of manufacturing a print medium to be supplied to a printing apparatus wherein the printing apparatus (Figure 1) comprising a feeding means element 23) for feeding the print medium accommodated in an accommodating portion (element 19) to a transporting passage facing the printing means (element 15) and transports the print medium by feeding means along the transporting passage so that the printing means can print on the print medium and a front end of the accommodating portion being positioned a predetermined distance from the feeding means (Fig1), the printing medium comprising:

- A print area on which to print a desired image (Fig.1: element 11)
- A separate discard area provided in at least a front end portion of the print medium (Fig.1)

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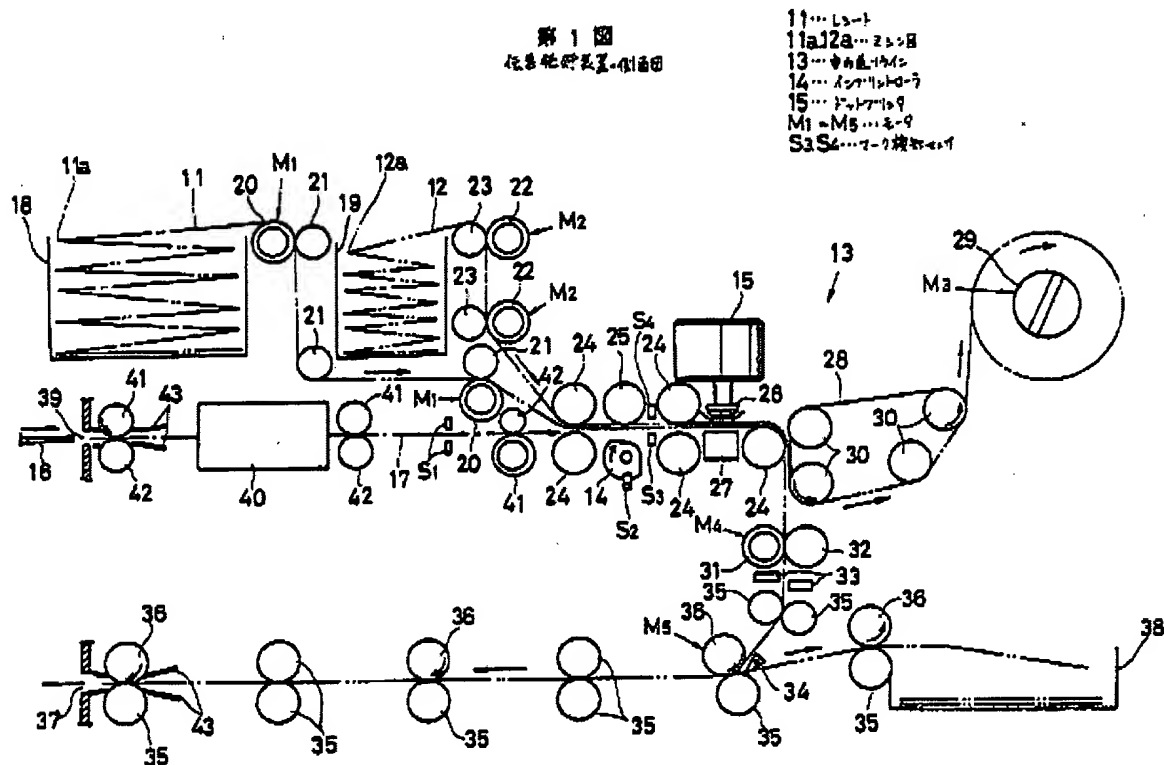
- A width of the discard area provided in at least the front end portion is greater than the predetermined distance from the front end of the accommodating portion to the feeding means or a distance from a front end of the accommodating portion to the feeding means is less than a width of the discard area in the front end portion of the print medium (Fig.1)
- A discharge means being positioned a predetermined distance from a rearmost effective printing portion of the printing means (Fig.1)
- A width of the discard area provided in at least the front end portion is greater than the predetermined distance from the rearmost effective printing portion of the printing means to the discharge means (Fig.1)
- Transport means being positioned a predetermined distance from a front-most effective printing portion of the printing means (Fig.1)
- A width of the discard area provided in at least the rear portion is greater than the predetermined distance from the front-most effective printing portion of the printing means to the transport means (Fig.1)
- Discharge means arranged downstream of the transport means (Fig.9)

However, Morishita et al fails to teach the discard area is the area that not use for printing.

Watabiki et al teaches skipping a page of web (Abstract)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Morishita et al with skipping a page as

taught by Watabiki et al. The motivation of doing so in order to convey paper at high speed without reducing paper sending resolution at low cost.



2. Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morishita et al. (JP 361228975) in view of Warabiki et al (JP 411348363) as applied to claims 1-4 above, further in view of Yamaoka (JP 11-277879)

The combination of Morishita et al. and Warabiki et al teaches a discard area in a front end portion of the print medium and a discard area in a rear end portion of print medium are set equal in width.

However, the combination of Morishita et al. and Warabiki et al fails to teach plurality of print areas and separably discard areas before and after each print area and

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a discard area in a left end portion of the print medium and a discard area in a right end portion of the print medium are set equal in width.

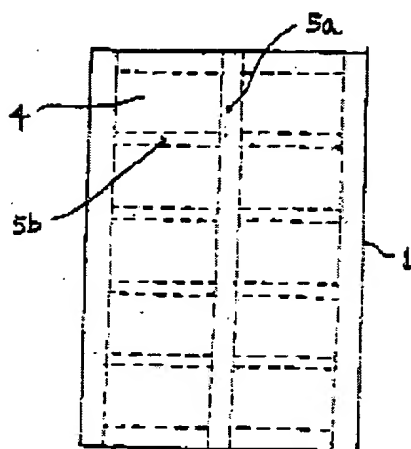
Yamaoka teaches plurality of print areas and separably discard areas before and after each print area and a discard area in a left end portion of the print medium and a discard area in a right end portion of the print medium are set equal in width. (Fig.9). Also, in figure 9, Yamaoka teaches that the widths of the discard areas in left and right end portions of the print medium are greater than a length in the transport direction of the discard are between the print areas.

Furthermore, using the combination of Morishita et al. and Warabiki et al, the discard areas in the front and rear end portions of the print medium is a full length of a page of web, so it clearly show that the discard areas in the front and rear end portions of the print medium in Morishita is greater than the discard area between the print areas in Yamaoka et al.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Morishita et al. and Warabiki et al with having a plurality of print areas and separably discard areas before and after each print area and a discard area in a left end portion of the print medium and a discard area in a right end portion of the print medium are set equal in width as taught by Tamaoka. The motivation of doing so is in order save more area for printing.

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【圖9】



Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

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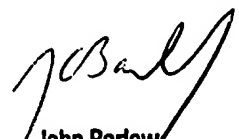
shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ly T TRAN whose telephone number is 703-308-0752. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30am-5pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on 703-308-3126. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0967.

December 17, 2002


John Barlow
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800